

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-19. (canceled)

20. (New) A method for connecting an exhaust manifold (3) to a port (12) of an exhaust assembly (5), the exhaust manifold having an inner pipe (7) and an outer pipe (9) which is manufactured from at least one sheet metal component, and at least the port (12) of the exhaust assembly (5) being manufactured from cast metal, said method comprising:

introducing the inner pipe (7) into the port (12) of the housing (13) of the exhaust assembly (5) and

welding the port (12) by means of a pulse-welding method to the at least one sheet metal component from which the outer pipe (9) is manufactured.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the connection is provided by means of a pulsed welding current source.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein a laser welding method is employed.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein a TIG welding method is employed.

24. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein an MAG welding method is employed.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least those regions of the at least one sheet metal component (9) and of the port (12) of the exhaust assembly (5) which are to be welded together are thermally controlled to a processing temperature before welding.

26. (New) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least those regions of the at least one sheet metal component (9) and of the port (12) of the exhaust assembly (5) which are to be welded together are cooled in a controlled manner after welding.

27. (New) A connection, including

an exhaust manifold (3), which has an inner pipe (7) and an outer pipe (9), the outer pipe (9) being manufactured from at least one sheet metal component, and  
a port (12) of an exhaust assembly (5),

wherein at least the port (12) of the exhaust assembly (5) is manufactured from cast metal,

the connection formed by introducing the inner pipe (7) into the port (12) of the exhaust assembly (5), and producing a weld joining the at least one sheet metal component (9) and the port (12) by means of a pulse-welding method.

28. (New) The connection as claimed in claim 27, wherein the inner pipe (7) is a gas-carrying pipe (7) of an airgap-insulated exhaust manifold (3).

29. (New) The connection as claimed in claim 27, wherein the port is designed as an inflow gas duct (12) of the exhaust assembly (5).